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A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 5th, 1885.

THERE has been much speech-making in the Senate since our last number, while the elective Chamber has succeeded in holding but one session. Senator Barão de Mamoré made a powerful, albeit somewhat illogical attack on the government, for his charge was rather of a personal character than of general interest. As an example, however, of the manner in which provincial assemblies can waste the funds entrusted to their care, the Senator's speech may prove of interest. The conservative chieftains have shown the reserve that might have been expected. They one and all deny any obligation to offer opinions, and consider their duty to the country fulfilled with a system of obstruction. The sessions have been rich in metaphors, and in condensed and pithy observations. Senator Dantas, when appearing last session to present his programme, stated that the Cabinet could neither recede, stop, nor precipitate the emancipation question. Barão do Cetegipe (the president of the Senate) is the author of the famous expression that the conservatives must, can, and will solve the question. Senators Correia and Affonso Celso appear favourable to some compromise. Senator de Mamoré will support no government that permits of such abuses and scandals as he stigmatized in his speech. Senator Paulino dragged into the discussion, *malgré lui* by Sr. Affonso Celso, draws a metaphor, in which the conservative party is likened to the drag put on a wagon upon an inclined plane. He considered it an honour to have opposed the Rio Branco law, but now thinks that this same law had solved, once for all, the emancipation question. He succeeded in infusing some animation into the Senate (if animation be an equivalent for a rather disorderly session) and brings upon his head some telling replies from the Premier and Sr. Affonso Celso. Sr. João Alfredo, a member of the cabinet that passed the Rio Branco law, is hand in hand with Sr. Paulino who opposed this same law. He made an appeal to Senator Saravia to form a government, saying that the conservatives would not make of this question a ladder to reach the plateau of government. Sr. Affonso Celso explained what his ideas were and the Premier refused to abandon his project for the treeing of sexagenarian slaves. This is a rapid and concise summary of the speeches we publish in another column, and if there be any deductions possible, they are; that the two parties are so desirous of retaining, or obtaining, a place that Senator Dantas seems in a fair way of carrying his project with certain concessions made to his dissident political

friends. The defense (and we think it has been ably done) of the cabinet by Sr. Affonso Celso clearly shows that some arrangement is proximate, and whatever this be, if it can relieve the discomfort and uneasiness felt in all circles pending some decision of the important question of emancipation, it will be received with thanksgiving and praise. Until this matter, for the special purpose of deciding which this extra session of the legislature was called, is settled, nothing can come before the Chambers. A sentiment of the necessity of forwarding in every manner this decision, and the calls of patriotism also, should be more than sufficient to produce an activity and a compromising spirit in our legislators. Both parties acknowledge that the question must be settled. Let them then combine on some mutually acceptable scheme and relieve the empire of this worse than nightmare that hangs over us like a funeral pall. With public-spirited men, such as are at the head of each party, a compromise cannot be impossible. Difficult it perhaps may be, but a sincere desire for the public welfare would materially aid the solution of a question, in regard to which the leader of one party says he can neither retreat, stop nor act with precipitation, and the leader of the other says, the question must, can and will be decided. Drop petty warfare; combine for the benefit of the country; and the names of those who were instrumental in avoiding civil disturbance will be remembered with veneration by future citizens.

It has been again charged that there are still slaves in the province of Ceará as well as in that of Amazonas. A Senator of the Empire has not scrupled so to state and to use this statement as an argument against those of the emancipationists. Evidently with a view to a contradiction two Deputies moved for information as to the number of slaves registered in Amazonas but through some rule of the Chamber the motion was held over. If the statement made in the Senate be true—and there can hardly be a doubt that the Senator making it must be right at least so far as Amazonas is concerned—it paves the way for a most disagreeable exposé of how law is observed in the interior of Brazil. If there still exist slaves in the province of Ceará it can only be because of their non-registration, which *per se* has secured their freedom and they are therefore illegally and wickedly held in bondage, through their ignorance and the negligence of the authorities. This is a serious question. If negroes legally free are held by unscrupulous men in a state of slavery, why may not other men, similarly unscrupulous, seize upon immigrants, travellers, any one, and like the feudal Barons hold them for ransom? The outraged law should cause swift justice to alight on the heads of the guilty parties and until this occurs the legal and administrative authorities of Ceará can not resent the charge made by a Senator that they have lied—there is no other word—in declaring the province emancipated. So far as Amazonas is concerned, we have said, that the Senator is probably correctly informed and steps should at once be taken by such as really have the emancipation question at heart to discover and disclose whether illegal acts are not also occurring there. Nothing is easier than to prevent illiterate and brutalized negroes having any knowledge of what is happening even in their immediate neighbourhood. What can they possibly know of emancipation funds, of laws of registry and the consequences of these? Driven like beasts to their daily labour and from this back to their dens, does it seem probable that they will ever learn that in the eye of the law they are the equals of the master who rules them? Evidently not; and the Senator

from Amazonas in making a charge which he uses as a weapon of attack on the Dantas' emancipation project has, purposely or unwittingly, uttered a grave indictment of the whole of the interior of this empire. For he has shown that law is not respected unless backed by an armed force, and that by persistent disregard of its charges and their consequences any party may hold in slavery freemen for a period only terminable by death. The Senator from Amazonas laid hold of a two-edged sword and that he may not have seriously embarrassed the country in his attempt to embarrass the present ministry, is to be earnestly hoped.

Most disagreeably is our attention attracted by the report of a Committee of the Council of State which we print in another column, and which is the authorization for a supplementary credit to the Ministry of Finance. From this report it will be seen that whereas for the fiscal year 1883-84 the budget fixed the amount of interest on Treasury bills at 920,000\$, the expenditure under this head reached the enormous sum of 2,530,500\$; nearly three times the amount estimated. This fact either shows great carelessness on the part of those who drew up the budget, or an error in calculation that is inexcusable. It might even be claimed that an attempt at hoodwinking the public had occurred. We are unable to specify where the charge may be duly placed. Senator Dantas was called upon to take charge of the budget as made up by Sr. Lafayette, but surely so serious an error as 1,610,500\$ in one item of this budget should, and ought to, have been detected. Sr. Lafayette is a member of this committee that acknowledges the error, but no further information is granted, than that former issues of bills were in circulation which it being impossible to retire, the item of interest was unavoidably charged with that upon former issues as well as upon those issued in anticipation of revenue. If it be considered that all these Treasury bills are professedly issued in anticipation of revenue, a critical or curious mind would naturally enquire how it comes to pass that bills issued in one fiscal year become a charge upon a following year? And to this enquiry there are but two answers; first, an over-estimate as to what the revenue would produce, which might perhaps be an excusable plea; and second, that the bills were issued not in anticipation of revenue, but, as was aptly stated in the Senate during the last session, in anticipation of funding. Next in the report comes an item, *Commissions and Brokerages*, to meet which 60,000\$ was voted by the budget, but under which it seems 118,909\$302 was expended, so that 58,909\$302, or almost an equal sum as voted, is asked for; the budget further voted 480,000\$ for interest on the Orphans' fund, the expenditure was 500,787\$539. As is thus seen, the Treasury has been obliged to ask that by decree, and not by legislative action, so large a sum as 1,690,195\$811 be placed at its disposition to meet unavoidable engagements. This is a disheartening reply to the promises of retrenchment, economies etc. with which we have been so liberally favored, and causes a feeling of uneasiness as to whether budgets as voted are anything more than mere expectations, based on no foundation save the optimism of the minister of finance, or the incapacity of his assistants. We recognize the difficulties encountered by the present ministry; called upon suddenly to assume power, it was necessarily obliged to take over the budgets and estimates of its predecessors; but Senator Dantas might have brought sufficient influence to bear upon the budget committees of the Senate and Chamber, to have modified the votes, to the end, that some relation of amounts granted to the probable expenditure would be regarded. No doubt the question will be availed of by the opposition and occasion given for the settlement of the fault upon the person meriting the condemnation, but this will hardly avail to relieve public opinion of the distrust as to budgets that this report of a Committee of the Council of State will cause.

Our daily colleague *O País* published on the 27th ulto, some pertinent remarks upon the government savings banks (*caixas econômicas*) which are well worthy the attention of the powers that be. While we do not agree with the author of the article in question upon all points, still on many we are agreed and with all due deference to the opinions of so capable an authority, we in turn will express our ideas on this important subject of public interest. Unlike *O País*, we are in favor of government receiving and caring for the savings of the people. There is more safety for the depositors, more public fiscalization, and also the example of Great Britain; all these incline us to the belief that government, and government alone, should be the custodian of the economies of the people; provided these are secured by such regulations as are seen in the case of the Post Office savings banks in Great Britain. There, as is well known, penny postage stamp may be attached to a form until the sum of a shilling is accumulated, when this may be deposited; the deposits are under the charge of the National Debt Commissioners and in their names invested in Public Funds. Thus as perfect security for the depositors is secured, as can be desired. Here, unfortunately, these deposits in our savings banks are virtually considered, if not quite revenue, at least a source from which engagements may be met by the Treasury, and that this is radically wrong seems unquestionable; if any modification of the law in relation to these institutions be contemplated, such a change should be made as would model the regulations upon the British law. Trustees should be appointed to act as the representatives of the public and these representatives should be obliged by stringent laws to employ the funds as accumulated in government bonds. In this manner the authorities at the Treasury would have the use of the funds under a reasonable and necessary restriction. Our colleague calls attention to the fact that government is a consumer, not a producer, of capital. This argument can hardly apply to Brazil, where capital is represented almost exclusively by agriculture and where the currency is from its nature inconvertible, or restricted to the empire where alone is it a tender for debt. How can it be claimed therefore that the receiving of the savings of the people into the Treasury in exchange for acknowledgements of the debt would withdraw from circulation any considerable sum of capital? It may cause dislocation, but no reduction, for the Treasury disbursements continue in proportion to the receipts and the sums collected by the various savings banks are employed to meet floating debt. We cannot see any objection to the collecting into the Treasury of the economies of the people, providing as we have said, that these are properly secured, and this at present does not seem to be as satisfactory as it might be. A serious and more aggravated feature of our financial position is the legalized assault upon the savings of the public by the innumerable lotteries, which are defended by some statesmen, as a necessary source of revenue that certain favors to religious or friendly institutions may not become a weight upon the Treasury. We opine that it would be infinitely better to leave these institutions to the care of charitable individuals, than to

tempt the people by the prospect of sudden wealth to waste their hard-earned savings in a wild and disappointing speculation where government is in a position to say, "Heads, I win; tails, you lose." The question of lotteries seems to us indefensible; it is demoralizing, induces extravagance and perhaps even dishonesty. Therefore, the sooner some steps are taken to abolish this canker, the better it will be for the public, whose savings will be freed from the insidious attack upon them, and also it will be better for the Treasury, which will have the use of these savings, as is not at present the case. Our idea as to the savings banks question may be summarized in very few words. Abolish all lotteries by law; appoint honorable and responsible men as trustees for depositors, to whom, in exchange for the sums paid in, will be issued acknowledgements of government debt; increase the number of banks, that there may be less delay in depositing, for in this city a labouring man may lose a whole day while awaiting his turn, and a day lost is an important factor in his savings. We can see no objection to the government receiving deposits under these conditions and trust that the necessary steps will be taken to this end.

YELLOW FEVER.

Rio de Janeiro, 31 March 1885.

To the Editor of the Rio News.

Sir.—With the intention of giving you and your readers some ideas, and which I trust will be of interest, relating to the inoculations practised in the city with the attenuated liquid culture as a prevention against the dangers of contracting yellow fever and of which I have by order of the Imperial Government the charge, I beg to give you the following details. Having had printed in different languages (Portuguese, German, Spanish, Italian, French and English), notices relating to the subject of which the enclosed are specimens, after their distribution in the most conspicuous and convenient parts of the town and in places where they in all probability would be useful, I gave the necessary instructions to my assistant, Mr. Charles Browne, to proceed with the work. From the twenty-second of December last year, up to the twenty-second of March instant, or in the period of three months, one thousand, one hundred and nine persons of different nationalities and whose ages ranged from one month to sixty years were submitted to subcutaneous injections in the deltoid region of the arm with the said liquid. All, with the exception of one or two cases, experienced elevations of temperature varying from thirty seven and five-tenths centig. to forty degrees centig., frontal headache, pains in the articulations, general indisposition, and in some, slight epigastric oppression, symptoms which ceased after twenty to forty hours and without any medical intervention. In many cases these injections were practised in houses where a few hours before death had taken place from yellow fever; nevertheless in the cases specified and under disadvantageous hygienic circumstances, not one single serious accident has happened. I beg to add that these inoculations were chiefly performed in my presence and in the company of the two medical gentlemen, commissioned by the Spanish government to specially study this disease in Brazil.

Every care has been taken in giving publicity in one of the principal newspapers, as to the names, ages, professions, conditions, residences, time in Brazil, etc. and this will be continued in order to facilitate the necessary examination by those who may be so inclined.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

DR. DOMINGOS FREIRE.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

March 23.—In the Senate, BARÃO DE MAMORÉ said he was not called upon to express the opinion of his (conservative) party on the emancipation question, but that this opinion might be summed from the debates of last session; nevertheless Sr. Affonso Celso not content with what the president [Barão de Cotelipe] had said at a political [baralho] considered it necessary to confront (carregar) the conservative Senators in the tribune and in the press. He begged and hoped that the question might be settled immediately, but considered that neither the present, nor any liberal ministry, could solve it, and he proposed to condense what had occurred in a province (Amazonas) which is proclaimed free and to which the premier referred a few days ago. The province was not free; as to slavery, with the exception of the capital, there was no change in its conditions. He was an eye-witness (presencial) that slavery existed now as formerly in the interior. All that was done, and which caused the removal of the then president by Sr. Lafayette, was confined to the capital. As to the slaves outside the capital no one understood with the masters, nor was any step taken by the administration that a single one should obtain liberty. He further stated he had read, that a disappointed candidate had stated he desired to be elected that he might free the slaves he had encountered in a district (comarca) in the interior of Ceará. How then could these two provinces be declared free of slavery? (Sr. Silveira da Motta.—"They are free!") "They are no such thing," replied the orator, "Amazonas is not free; the capital is, but not the province." The argument based on these two provinces therefore lost its force, for they were not emancipated. He would repeat an interruption of Sr. Martinho Campos, that horrible scandals had been created; incredible things that the Senate was about to hear. Sr. Affonso Celso had furnished further reasons for distrust of the project, to which he would offer amendments and he had said he was a partisan of pecuniary indemnity (Sr. Affonso Celso).—"Parlon; I said indemnity, not pecuniary indemnity." He went on to state facts by saying that the province of Amazonas at the beginning of last year had a balance in hand of 1,600,000\$; when the ex-president turned over the administration to his successor the balance was 940,000\$; not quite a year has past and the province of Amazonas had not a *real* to pay its public employees. Of the public works begun not one had been completed, the money expended so far would be a total loss, for it was not probable that the province would continue to have presidents who considered a theatre costing 1,000,000\$ and a lyceum based on European universities necessary to the capital. As he had said, when Dr. Theodureto Santo received the administration, the balance in hand was about 900,000\$ and he repeated that to-day the province had not a *real*, nor had one of the public works been completed, by which might be justified the expenditure of so large a sum. He went on treat of the emancipation question; as the Rio Branco law had allowed of municipal and provincial emancipation funds, the province having a large balance in hand declined, as was lawful, by its Assembly to form a provincial fund; but Sr. Santo had violated the law in fixing a price for slaves, when legally the valuation was to be settled by committees. He read an official table showing that 110,318\$600 had been disbursed (of which 10,200\$ was expended in *fletes*) and stating that up to the middle of January, nine of the abolition committees had settled accounts. He had further made a memorandum of a case, which he read, where the party told him that he had received a loan of 8,000\$ from a member of a committee and upon making the first partial payment was told that there was no hurry for paying the balance which would be called for when the lender had to settle accounts with the Treasury. He considered the information he had given was a public service, for silence from a dislike of wounding private sensibilities was always detrimental. The speaker went on to say, that aside from the emancipation question the administrative service of Amazonas was an immeasurable chaos, and it might be said that the president had not the powers for correction. He then mentioned the cancelling of the globe-gas contract and the law authorizing an indemnity, not to exceed 50,000\$ to the contractors, [which they received] and said that one of the arbitrators in the matter was the manager (*empresário*) of a subsidiary navigation company to whom 26,000\$ in advance of subsidy was paid for fixing the indemnity at 50,000\$. He further mentioned other irregularities and among them, subsidies to students of photography, short-hand writing, medicine, law, etc. which amounted to a total of nearly 18,000\$; for a theatre 50,000\$, a monument 68,000\$; subsidies and interest guarantees amounted to 2,390,130\$. Political persecutions were then touched on. The Senator thought the conservatives had shown as much of their views as a party in opposition was bound to do and to demand more was to ask too

much. In reply to an interruption he said there was more settled than was supposed to be, but the opposition was determined to await the government's project before expressing opinions. Senator PAULINO DE SOUZA said, he hesitated to take part in the debate as the youngest (*mais novo*) member of the House and as yet unaccustomed to the cold eloquence of its calm tribune. But Sr. Affonso Celso wished otherwise and had called upon him by name, to join the debate in order that he might define his position, this he had thought was well known on the subject under discussion, and also to confront him with the president [Barão de Cotelipe] and the Senator from Pernambuco [Sr. João Alfredo]. He compared the elections held under the premiership of Sr. Saráiva with the late elections, much to the disadvantage of the latter, during which excesses and abuses were practiced without however success for the government. If, a hypothesis which did not seem to him probable, the project of the government reached the Senate, the premier could certainly count upon the adhesion of all the liberal leaders with seats in that House, and especially the representative of Minas [Sr. Affonso Celso]. Senator Sinimbu and others whose views are known to be in opposition to those of the government. The Senator from Minas on a very solemn occasion last June declared formally, that the financial position of the empire did not allow of the emancipation question having precedence over the treatment of the sores that were eating into the National Treasury, making that worm-eaten edifice a cause of the greatest apprehension to all those who reflect on the lot of the public fortune and on the credit of Brazil. Called to the Imperial presence at the time of the last ministerial crisis, the Senator repeated to the Senate what he had said to H. M. Majesty. And had, the orator asked, the finances of Brazil improved since then? He then referred to Senator Lafayette's exposition from which it could be seen that in the last seven years to the extent of 186,000,000\$ had been borrowed abroad, withdrawn from industry which was thus deprived of capital, the issue of paper money, that which the Treasury borrowed under the form of deposits, orphans' fund, friendly societies or of private savings. To this sum almost fabulous for a country whose wealth tends to decrease, must be added the floating debt in Treasury bills estimated at 54,000,000\$ and perhaps other engagements, which only in May and by the *relator* will be known. The condition of the Treasury has not improved and if the Senator from Minas will observe that each day shows a decline in the price of our *pronto*, that the want of confidence in commercial stability causes constant decline in foreign exchange, that agriculture, contumely by the government to its credit and ruin, cannot liquidate its heavy engagements, that the commercial situation is shown to be alarming because of the difficulty of liquidations, as indicated by numerous failures of firms until lately considered good; if the Senator will observe these symptoms of an economic, commercial and financial crisis which have caused a remark, that steps should be taken in time to save the country from the fate of Egypt; if the Senator will recall that the deficit last year was estimated by the Treasury at over 28,000,000\$ or one-fifth of the revenue, which renders necessary an heroic remedy as was stated in the last *relatório*; if H. Ex. will think over all these painful truths, which he regretted to recall to the Senate, he will agree with his (the orator) decision to be guided by these sale and secure (*segundado*) views which he (Sr. Affonso Celso) patriotically endeavored to distill in the elevated mind of the Emperor. He declared that when presenting the list of conservative candidates for Senator from Rio de Janeiro, he clearly and distinctly stated that the election of the ticket would mean a formal adhesion in the studied views, expressed thereby, of not allowing the destruction of the actual constitutional order, without at least an expression of what it was proposed to build upon the ruins; and he added to this, that the duty of public men was to use all endeavors that ideas more generous than patriotic should not compromise (*aventurar*) the rights of property, the fate of the national wealth, public tranquility and individual security. He divided political society into two classes, or ideas: one is of enthusiastical tendencies, that of the *doctrinaires*, and of their application in political life; it is that of the liberal party. The other begins with traditions, it considers the actual state of affairs, it does not surrender, save in extreme cases, the great principles once proclaimed in organized society, but it is progressive as to the alterations in the *modus vivendi* of society; it is the tendency of practical and reflective men. He feared that the enthusiasm for absolute principles would place those, who allowed themselves to be carried away, in the position of the astronomer who absorbed in star-gazing fell into a well, as is related by Lafontaine. But he could not forget another simile which in 1877 had been used by Barão de Cotelipe, then minister in the Chamber of Deputies, when he stated that the conservative resistance did not prevent progress, and likened the State to the carts in the interior that carry produce

from the hills of the plantations to the mills for preparation. If they be started on the declivity, they would be precipitated, did not the driver help the efforts of the wheelers (*junta de cõco*) by hitching the middle pair and the leaders to the back of the cart, so securing a regular speed to the vehicle, and thus the safe arrival of cart, animals and produce at the bottom. In referring to the Rio Branco law he said he had opposed it, and after its adoption proposed a vote of want of confidence in the then ministry, but he had declared he would respect and advise respect to the law as it is. The Rio Branco law solved once for all the emancipation question; it are the principles, beyond which no solution is possible, without disorganization of agricultural labor, without violation of the rights of property. He confessed that in questions of a social order his disposition led him rather to resist, until conqueror or conquer, than to compromise; but because he might have to steady himself on the field at the first attack in front, he did not deny that reasons of high prudence, interesting public peace and quietness of spirit, might advise as a concession that something might be granted early, which later would be produced by victory. If the government be defeated on the point to which the premier had carried the exaggerations of the *propaganda* and on which he had based his government, as he expected it would be, and if the conservatives by any possibility were obliged to assume the responsibility of government, it may perhaps become necessary, for the sake of general tranquility, to define where they are placed. The speaker did not consider his party should present a project, but the plan should be to oppose that of the government and withdraw the nation from those evils which would arise from it. To defend this position he cited Fox and D'Israeli (There was some disorder here; the president rang his bell and saying the speaker was new to the House, asked that no interruptions occur). He considered that the liberal dissidents might propose some compromise, but not the conservative opposition. (More interruptions). The speaker asked that the animation (*color*) shown in the Senate should not be considered as brought by him from the Chamber, but he was pleased to see the atmosphere warmer than usual. In recalling the premier's support to the ministries of Srs. Martinho Campos and Lafayette and to his holding a portfolio in that of Sr. Saráiva, the speaker said that it was from his silence on the emancipation question that the premier proceeded to place; suddenly the Senator from Bahia (the premier) appears at the head of the government with ideas unrecognizable by any one so advanced that he was at once satisfied by abolition and satisfied the most advanced demands of the *propaganda*. [The semiannual question of H. M.'s interest or complicity in the question then came up.] The speaker was warmly complimented by many Senators.

March 24.—In the Senate, Sr. CORREIA spoke on the reply to the Speech; his opinions were well known, and he had neither any desire for place, nor could he be called upon for a project, for he had formed none. He attacked the intervention of the government in the Paraná elections, and would like Sr. Saráiva's views as to the execution of the electoral law. He considered his reference to national bankruptcy was no exaggeration and that the explosion had already been heard in the provinces. He could not but think that the state of the Treasury was terrifying and asked what was the floating debt (the premier said he had found it at 46,000 or 47,000,000\$ and that it was now 50,000,000\$) and then charged the government with undue interference with the Chamber. In the Chamber, a motion for information as to the number of slaves in the province of Amazonas was presented, but adjourned upon Sr. ANDRADE FIGUEIRA desiring to discuss it. Ten deputies were sworn and took their seats. The committee on the reply to the Speech was not elected there being no quorum.

March 26.—In the Senate, Sr. JOÃO ALFREDO said, he occupied the tribune to reply to Sr. Affonso Celso and to an interruption of the minister of empire, but not to reply to the various questions put in a thousand ways by British writers (*escrivadores britânicos*) employed to defend the government in the press, probably at the cost of the public coffers. He compared the Paraná ministry to one of those fairy tales where each guest bestowed some gift upon the new-born babe, but the uninvited fairy appearing declared that while the child might possess all the qualities bestowed they would yet avail her nothing, and said the premier in this case was the bad fairy. The agreement with the Crown was again touched upon and government interference in the elections. His position as to the emancipation question was clearly defined, as a member of the Rio Branco ministry that passed the law of 28th Sept. 1871 he frankly and loyally supported that law; in 1880 he said in the Senate that he favoured emancipation, if the rights of property and the condition of the country were respected. He had said that the time was not far distant when some

thing should be done for the amplification of the law of 28th Sept. His position is; that the Rio Branco law should be opportunely amplified so far as possible without offending rights of property, disorganizing labour, nor disturbing the productive forces of the country. He thought that so long as the stealing of slaves was a criminal offense the organization of companies who, under the guise of freeing them, took slaves from their masters for their own service was punishable. That there was a vessel in Pernambuco employed to carry slaves to Ceará and here (in Rio) a little more or less the same thing was occurring. As Sr. Affonso Celso had asked what the conservative party proposed, the speaker asked him the same question, for last year he had opposed the project and yet does so, having his own ideas on the subject these are still unknown when he might have understood himself with the premier, because he supports the government. He recalled further examples from England of the duties of the opposition. He was not of those that thought Brazil would be ruined by a want of slaves; he was convinced that slave labour besides being less productive than free, drove away this latter. He had observed that not only free labourers would not work along with slaves, but that freedmen tried to show their superiority by not continuing in the work they formerly did. He thought Brazil unlucky in having inherited this institution, but more unhappy will the country be if its extinction be not carried out with the greatest prudence, so that serious disturbances may be avoided. He repeated what was said by Thiers in reference to Turkey; that it lived for it was of difficult suppression, but if it were killed its corpse would infect Europe for more than fifty years. Referring to the charge that the conservatives were divided on the question, he said that they did not propose to make this question a ladder to place, what they sought was to be ready as a constitutional party when naturally and legally they were called in assume power. Caesar, Pompey and Crassus were impressed to show the un-cohesion of the liberal party. He hoped in any case that the liberals might succeed in carrying through a solution of this most serious question but he thought the principal obstacle was the premier. After comparing Sr. Saravia to Nestor and government and the liberal opposition to Achilles and Agamemnon the orator was complimented by many Senators. Sr. TRINHÉRA JR. did not consider it convenient that the Senate should discuss the emancipation question pending the decision of the elective Chamber, which represented the result of the appeal to the country. It cannot be said that the question as to which the nation was consulted and on which the new Chamber received its credentials, is a legislative question, such as any other. Nor this question has special characteristics; it is the subject of a dispute between the executive power and the elective Chamber and as such referred to the country. Why prejudge it therefore in the Senate? He hoped his vote might be cast with the majority in the Chamber, for in this case he could say to those interested that he had voted in conformity with the views of his constituents as expressed by their elected representatives. He considered the argument of government interference in the elections inconsequential, for the unquestioned rights of the voter might be defended by arms; by bowing to government impositions they would nullify their rights. The Deputies elected were chosen by their constituents as the representatives of their opinions on the question referred to the nation; it therefore is essential that the opinion of the Chamber as being that of the country should be heard. The Senator from Minas thought however that the ideas of the conservative party should be known to facilitate a compromise as to this serious question and to this end he called upon several Senators by name, amongst whom was the speaker. (Here the speaker referred to some remarks addressed to him by Sr. AFFONSO CELSO.) He continued that since 1870 he had freely expressed his opinions on the question and he had again done so at the Council of State. His silence in the Senate arose from no lack of formed opinion nor from timidity, but from the inconvenience of the discussion in that House. His opinion was formed, but besides the consideration that its expression might be ill-judged before hearing the opinion of the Chamber recently elected and summoned in extraordinary session to decide the question, he was still struggling with doubts as to the efficacy of some steps he considered preferable. His views as to the unsatisfactory result to the public of the Rio Branco law being known, he had no further reason to occupy the attention of the Senate; but what he desired was that the responsibility of his vote, whatever that responsibility be, should be shared by the vote of the Chamber. He had a claim for being considered independent as he had not scrupled to oppose friends or foes. In answer to the demand of the Senator from Minas for his opinion on the emancipation question he could add but little to what he had already said, but he might

remind him, of his [the speaker] conviction, that the only obstacle is the manner in which to effect abolition, was not of recent date. The greatest care was necessary, for the substitution of slave by free labour might very seriously [profundamente] affect private and public wealth. It might be well to await the full effects of the Rio Branco law, for therein the legislator marked efficacious means for gradual abolition. Unhappily, the evil execution of this law and the notorious abuses have caused to be attributed to the law the singularity of the effects, because the results do not meet the expectations that were formed thereon. On the other side as public opinion is agitated by the abolitionist propaganda and property in slaves threatened, an interference of the public power is an evident necessity. Such had been his report to the Council of State and such was his present opinion. Let us take examples from countries, that were called upon before us to decide this question. He considered it clear that the Rio Branco law did not satisfy the reclamations of public opinion and that an adjournment of measures to satisfy these reclamations, instead of deferring a prudent solution, might provoke greater impatience and perhaps a solution more hurtful to those interests which should be guaranteed; for the history of his institution in other countries shows that such is the result of systematic resistance to the progressive extinction of slavery. But the Senator from Minas asks how is it that we are at a point where it is indispensable and urgent to take up this matter? The reply is easy, if one looks to the want of a faithful execution of the Rio Branco law, the excitement of the abolition propaganda (animado) by the government and to the progress of humanitarian ideas awakened by this same law. It has occurred here not long ago that the abolitionists decreed the emancipation of the slaves in such a fixed, fixed the date, even attempted to assume municipal authority and change the names of public squares. All that the government did to moderate this proceeding was to present its project to the Legislature by which useless [fora-líder] slaves were to be freed without indemnity, and thus for the present has served to moderate the disorderly conduct of the propaganda. There can be no doubt that this project, withdrawn from the streets, the question to submit it to the Legislature. But were he an abolitionist he would not approve of the government project, which, while freeing needless slaves, leaves in bondage all others even those who are useless from other causes than of age [Sr. Dantas, —] Then V. Ex. wishes slaves? I wished for more as to the number of slaves to be he contemplated [forradores] but much less as to the manner in which the government wishes to contemplate them; he wished for more than the freedom of sexagenarian slaves, but not without indemnity; more than this incomplete measure, and that the solution of the question should not remain uncertain; he wished a solution of a permanent character, which is indispensable for the tranquillity of slave holders. The government's project, and the speaker, is faulty, besides being inconvenient and dangerous as was shown by the Senator from Minas. Limiting itself to partial and transitory measures it allows of the most serious apprehensions as to the future. Today, the government proposes the emancipation of sexagenarian slaves; tomorrow another Cabinet will propose the freedom of those of 50 or of 40 years; later on fresh agitation will appear, and in this manner will be deferred the decision of the question in a form sufficiently permanent to serve as a guarantee, without exciting the indiscretion of some or the wildness of others. He preferred therefore that the country be withdrawn from this state of uncertainty by the establishment of rules and conditions to embrace all slaves and to promote their emancipation by means of an indemnity, by which means our principal industry would regain its tranquillity and credit, which can not be secured so long as uncertainty hangs over the future of the principal factor of its work. In reply to an interruption he said he did not claim a pecuniary indemnity for the masters, as this was incompatible with the financial condition of the country; but an indemnity by means of the labor of the freedmen as provided for in the Rio Branco law, by which this manner of obtaining freedom was opened to slaves. (Interruptions.) Call it as you say, the speaker, *de lege* or *de facto*, it remains a legal property, and as such must be guaranteed. If it be the contrary, to-day that right to a slave may be denied which the law guarantees, to-morrow perhaps rights in other property will be denied, even to real estate, for these latter are given by the law, and the law may be modified. Let it be clearly known then, that under no hypothesis do I admit forced emancipation without indemnity, just as I do not admit a pecuniary indemnity, but only the loan (*prestado*) of the labor of the freedmen. Here I will modify the opinion I gave at the Council of State, when I proposed such means of indemnification [Sr. AFFONSO CELSO, —] I desire that the master have the right to choose between a pecuniary indemnity, or labor"; he was most sincerely desirous that the present, or

any other, ministry might solve the problem. Such a heavy and perilous is the road, that he had no hesitation in declaring he would have nothing to do with it for his party; could the liberals pass over it, let them do so for the happiness of all. He declared that the government project, as it is, would not receive his approbation, being deficient and manifestly uncalculated (*inopredente*) since it is intended to free by force without indemnity. Why free sexagenarians without thinking of others, why uselessly disturb relations between masters and slaves, why finally have not the clauses that permanent character which a solution of this question demands? (Interruptions). He declared himself more nearly in favor of Senator Ottoni's project than that of the government; and in closing considered the project deficient, incomplete and dangerous. SR. AFFONSO CELSO said that the obligations of courtesy called him to the tribune. The Senator from Paraná (Sr. Correia) in discussing the adjournment of the reply to the Speech from the Throne stated, so serious was the emancipation question, that only by a compromise could it be decided. He had replied to the demand that the liberal Senators should express an opinion on the project by asking that the conservatives should express their ideas on the question, as this was an obviously essential condition of the idea of a compromise. The right to provoke his colleagues to break their silence was contested and he was charged with an attempt to confront them. The Senator from Paraná had said that when a physician was called to see even a hopeless case he could refuse to prescribe. To show the lack of application of this doctrine which grants the opposition the sole right of criticism, without the obligation to advise what it considers more favourable, he would seek a *simile* for the state of affairs. "Cau the Senators," said the speaker, "believe that a doctor at a conference, would fulfil his duty by simply rejecting the *diagnosis* and the remedies applied, without suggesting others that seemed more useful." This is the case; the dissidents, like the doctors, should study now, while satisfying public necessities, social evils may be reduced. He did not think that the appeals to English statesmen were appropriate, as parliamentary business was then in a state of transition. He had not asked for schemes (*plans*) for the government, but he asked from the opposition that they should express to the Senate and to the country how they proposed to settle this question, which they declare themselves ready and also desirous of finishing. He did not demand a formal platform, he would be content with general ideas, with the foundations of the plan, which all supposed existed in the councils of the conservative party, since the famous, "want, must and can" of Barão de Cotegipe was spoken. He called attention that Senators João Alfredo and Teixeira Jr. wished amplification of the Rio Branco law, but that Senators de Manoel and Paulino were less satisfactory in their speeches, and he particularly referred in Barão de Manoel's remark that more was settled than he (the speaker) thought, from which might be inferred that something more than a project was decided upon, and this it was necessary to explain, for the Barão had previously stated that he was ignorant as to what his party intended to do. Senator Paulino had also confused his ideas, by commencing with a *simile*, to which he could reply with Spencer's remark that conservative meant obligatory co-operation with the state, and liberal, voluntary co-operation, and also with Macaulay's observation that liberals were the sails that urged forward the ship, while the conservatives were the ballast steady it. Another *simile* was given by the speaker where the two parties were compared to the centrifugal and centripetal forces, and yet another where liberals are represented by the locomotive devouring space, and the conservatives the rails upon which it rapidly, but softly (laughter) glides. He recognized now the lucid metaphor of Sr. Paulino (the cart before the horse) but although he was not competent to judge of its fitness, he thought he might affirm that it did not please many conspicuous members of the conservative party. The speaker combated various remarks in Sr. Paulino's speech with considerable ability, showing up some inconsistencies between his views and those of his political companions. Sr. Affonso Celso considered a compromise possible, and that this should be completed, but he objected to a mixed ministry, as being only defensible in a case of public security, which was not now the fact. His ideas as to emancipation were, that the master might have the option of a pecuniary indemnity, represented by government bonds at a moderate interest and payable within a fixed period, or the services of the freedmen for a period not to exceed seven years in the case of the youngest; that the value of the slave should be estimated within the limits marked by law as declared in a new registry and reduced yearly; further that the master should have the right to designate the slave to be freed by an indemnity, and that failing the exercise of this right the oldest slaves should be chosen, and of these the least

valuable; that the emancipation fund should be principally sustained by an annual moderate tax on the declared value of the slaves, by the wages of those freed at the expense of the Treasury and a part of the general revenue, rather than by special taxes. In the Chamber there was no quorum.

March 27.—In the Senate, the PREMIER replied to the various speeches attacking the government to the charges of Barão de Manoel, he answered that the decline in the value of India-rubber was the cause of the financial difficulties in Amazonas, together with the fact that when an individual, or a province, is over weighted with wealth, extravagance is the result and this had occurred. He further repeated his determination to stand firmly by his project and if defeated thereon to gladly resign his portfolio. No quorum in the Chamber.

March 28.—No quorum in either Senate or Chamber. The Senate adjourned until the 6th proximo.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

The provincial statesmen of Matto Grosso are good financiers. The provincial budget is estimated at 277,923,990\$ and expenses at the same amount. *Noves fôra, nada.*

The *Gazeta do Notícias* says that a defalcation of some 20,000\$ has been discovered at the S. Paulo branch of the Banco Mercantil of Santos and that the managers there had been dismissed.

In Maranhão on the 26th ulto, upon the occasion of the restoration of the chapel at the barracks, the officers of the garrison freed 22 slaves. They had raised the funds by an appeal to the inhabitants and deserve every credit for their philanthropic action.

The *Corumba, Matto Grosso* papers say that a robbery, old copper, bronze etc, of the value of 14,000\$ to 17,000\$ was recently discovered at the Arsenal there, and that the greater part of the goods were found, ready for shipment to Buenos Aires, in the possession of an Italian. We sincerely hope the Italian will say from whom he received them.

A Minas Gerais paper says that a larva has been discovered in a district there, that feeds on the leaves of the coffee-trees. It is of a green colour and difficult to detach from the branches. Over 50 were found on a twig. Whether this will affect coffee-growing markets is questionable, but in any case it should be looked into.

It looks very much as if the S. Paulo planter, who thrashed and put in the stocks some colonists, would have to pay damages. We only hope that such a lesson may be given him, that his colleagues will think twice before they consider a man on an equality with an *escravo de fato*, as they think these rarer less than brutes.

The president of the province of S. Paulo considered it necessary to advise the premier that the foundations of the Ipiranga monument were inaugurated on the 25th ulto. The telegram is dated—S. Paulo, Ipiranga hill, at 11 o'clock, 25th March. In reply the premier said he had much satisfaction in receiving the news which he had immediately brought before the Imperial eyes.

A most atrocious murder has just been discovered in Campinas, S. Paulo. A man who had gone there to liquidate certain transactions mysteriously disappeared, but the police, aided as it is claimed by the staff of a local paper, succeeded in gathering sufficient circumstantial evidence to have hanged the *rufião* arrested, in any other country. The victim and the murderer were apparently on terms of friendship, and the latter enticed the former to his house, when it was feed of servants and the family, and there and then murdered the unfortunate man, to rob him. His body and head which had been separated from the trunk are discovered. This is a second instance where the S. Paulo police have shown tact and ability in the suppression of crime, and we note it with pleasure.

BAHIA CENTRAL SUGAR FACTORIES.

Jornal do Comércio Mar. 30.

In conformity with Art. 18 of Law No. 3,229 of September 3rd ulto, by which the government was authorized to come to an arrangement with the holders of concessions for central factories and railways with a view of cancelling the interest guarantees, the contract made with Dennis Blair & Co, and by them transferred to the Bahia Central Sugar Factories Company, so far as it refers to the building of four factories in the municipalities of Mata de S. João, Villa do Conde and S. Francisco, in the province of Bahia, has just been cancelled, under the following conditions. The company has the right of increasing by 10 per cent, the guaranteed capital of 2,800,000\$ which is destined to build the four factories already commenced in the municipalities of Cachoeira, S. Amaro and Cotegipe in the said province but this to 10 per cent.

may not be called-up, pending the approval of the legislature. The period for finishing these factories is extended to June 30th proximo, with a proviso that, if within this time the four factories are not finished, and working, the guarantee of interest not only upon the 10 per cent, but upon the original capital of 2,800,000\$ will be suspended. If this agreement be approved, the government will be relieved of the liability on a guarantee of interest at 6 per cent. for 30 years on a capital of 2,520,000\$.

PROVINCE OF PERNAMBUCO.

From the *relatório* with which president Sancho Pimentel turned over the administration of the province to his successor, we may extract: The budget for 1883-84 estimated receipts at 2,611,212\$608 and expenditure at 2,706,313\$318, or a deficit of 97,100\$710. The revenue collected during the fiscal year reached 3,096,366\$762 of which 534,501\$514 were received through items not included in the ordinary budget, and of this 407,100\$ was from an issue of *apólices* at 5 per cent. The total expenses of the province amounted to 3,096,155\$948, viz: ordinary budget 2,890,963\$743 and extraordinary 205,192\$205. The debt amounts to 5,601,081\$515 of which 5,414,160\$ is funded. The president regrets to state that the province had not been able to meet many of its engagements; the payment of employees has been made since 1883 with difficulty and latterly with a delay of two or three months. The debts due the province are estimated at 2,436,739\$546, but the inspector of the Treasury states that a part of this is purely nominal, for some of the debtors are bankrupts, others have moved away and of others there are no traces [*restingas*]. The president considered the prospect extremely gloomy and the price of sugar, the principal product, was another disheartening feature.

The province has 626 schools of all kinds, of which the province supports 494, the general government 6,13 are subsidized and 129 are private. In 1884 22,617 pupils were entered at the various schools and the attendance was 15,163.

O Púz, 26th March

IMMIGRATION.

The *Correio de Campinas* of day-before-yesterday gives some further information as to the barbarous and savage treatment of some European laborers on a plantation there. The facts are proving the veracity of those who said that in the transformation of labor, the elevation of freedom should not be the only preoccupation of patriots. The *Correio de Campinas* says: We have obtained some information respecting the lamentable occurrence, of which the hero was Lieut. Col. Figueiredo, and the victims a German colonist and four nasons, three of whom were Italians and one an Austrian, who had been engaged by a contractor to work at the plantation on buildings. The contractor was not present when the affair occurred. When these poor laborers were amusing themselves, quietly singing at a distance of at least 60 to 100 *metros* from Sr. Figueiredo's residence, they received by a black an intimation that they must at once stop singing, which they refused to comply with, replying politely that they were so far from the house that it was impossible they could be annoying Sr. Figueiredo. Immediately after the house where they were singing was burst into and a number of plantation slaves, armed with sticks [*batatas*] commanded by Sr. Figueiredo and his overseer who carried large knives and horse-pistols entered the house. The men were seized, brutally pinioned, and as the Austrian resisted and endeavored to escape he was badly beaten and had his head broken. Afterwards all were put into the stocks, [*troncos*] hands and feet, where they were kept eleven hours—from 8 o'clock at night to 9 o'clock in the morning—guarded during the night by parties (*turnos*) of slaves. When, at the request of the overseer, they were released from the stocks, Sr. Figueiredo sent a black woman to change the Austrian's bloody shirt, and wash the cut on his head.

We would never have supposed that so important was the feudal authority of the unfortunate and ground-down class of planters. Here are five men employed to do certain work by a party who is employed by this gentleman, Sr. Figueiredo. The *Séigneur* Figueiredo was perhaps bilious, and did not desire that the employees of the contractor should have any more reason to be happy than his *niggers*; consequently he stops their mouth in a summary way, that merited a pistol shot in his epigastrium region and puts free, white men in his stocks. If the Consuls of the countries to which these outraged men owe allegiance do not at once call the *Séigneur* Figueiredo to account, they will forfeit all right to call themselves representatives of their countries.—*Eds. RIO NEWS.*

RAILROAD NOTES

The February traffic receipts of the Macaé and Campos railway were 100,267\$149; expenses are not given.

The S. Paulo papers say that the defaulter subcontractor on the Mungana railway has been captured at Pernambuco.

By decree of the 13th ulto, the Nazaré and Nova Cruz railway was granted sixty days extension for signing the contract for the Central-mirim branch.

The Rio Claro, S. Paulo, railway traffic receipts in January were 31,506\$350 and expenses 16,727\$200. The result is considered very satisfactory by the S. Paulo papers.

On the 23rd ulto, by a vote of 21 to 9 the provincial Assembly of Rio de Janeiro sustained the president's veto of the bill authorising the sale of the Cantagalo railway.

The traffic receipts of the Great Western (Rechalé a Limoeiro) railway in February were 58,976\$880 and expenses 42,431\$350. Of the merchandise carried, 4,007 tons was sugar and 178 tons cotton.

The amount of capital of the Mogyana, S. Paulo, railway on 31st Dec. ulto, was 5,100,000\$ trunk and 3,720,000\$ branch lines. During the last six months of the year the trunk line net earnings were 416,990\$517, or 187,490\$517 over the maximum fixed by contract with the province; one half of this excess, or 93,745\$258, was paid to the province in reduction of balance of guaranteed interest paid which was then reduced to 13,297\$852. On the Ribeiro Preto branch, traffic permitted a 7 per cent. dividend, but the province had to pay 14,571\$573 on account of the guarantee of 6 per cent. on the capital, 100,000\$, of the branches to Rio Grande and Caxias, which are building.

LOCAL NOTES

Mileage from S. Paulo to Rio at 250\$ per repute seems pretty steep.

There are certainly peculiar names in Brazil, Apollonio Zenyales Peregrino is an example.

It seems a pity that our Italy colleagues should be obliged to get their American news *via* France.

It is satisfactory to know that the Castro Motta question is liquidated at last. No one to blame.

The old *ladrão* of Philippe Nery, that all who had had to frequent the Rua da Saude will recall, is at last to be levelled.

The D. Pedro II theatre is gradually becoming quite too lovely. The style of the *fazete* is what Gargery would call "too architectural."

The anniversary of the granting of the Constitution to the empire was duly observed on the 25th ulto. II. M. came from Petropolis, held a reception and then went back again.

The statue which will be erected in Paris to Gambetta is to be placed in the Place du Carrousel. This is a sample of the important telegrams the Havas-Kerter agency sends to Rio.

The *Gazeta do Noticias* of the 26th ulto, hears that the *curteve Nietheroy* is to be commissioned to carry the offices of the *monedas Aquidabán* to England. Would it not be just about as cheap to send them by a packet?

The police arrested a man on the 29th accused of stealing 40\$ from his "chum." The examination of his boxes produced, a loaded double-barrelled horse pistol and various manuscript and printed papers. A curious mixture, surely!

If there be any truth in the matter, the Academy of Medicine should examine into a case of *supervipergon* which it is stated, occurred on a plantation near Baracena. The case would have started a dozen doctors had it occurred in the United States or in Europe.

Three confidence men, who had shewn legal money as a sample of counterfeit and proposed to sell equally well imitated notes at 5 for 1 when their intention was to sell old papers, were arrested by the police on the 24th. The person they approached informed on them.

Has not our colleague of the *Púz* made a slight mistake in saying that Lord Duley had bought a chinc service for 250,000 francs (38,000\$)? He meant *modus forte*, of course, but it is not very difficult to divide 250,000 by 2, which would produce 125,000\$ Brazilian paper money.

The debates in the Senate are published in the *Jornal do Commercio*. But when Senator Fulano makes a speech which we will publish afterwards the question naturally arises: did the Senator wish to revise his speech, or was space wanting in the *Jornal*? If the *Jornal* cannot give a daily report of the speeches, it should not be the organ of the Senate.

We cannot but express our delight in Sr. Rialdo's verses published in the *Gazeta de Notícias* of the 28th.

Les poésies d'Avril of our colleagues of the daily press were so palpable, that they could hardly have met with any success.

Our fire department is very well organized, but the station in the Largo da Carioca did not save a *brigade* that was burnt out within some five yards of the *pompeiros*.

The oaths registered in March were 866, of which 49 were from yellow fever and 143 from consumption. The daily average being 28, the annual rate per mil would be about 27.

The *Jornal* is enthusiastic as to a South American telegraphic union and it would not be a bad thing, but when Senators of the empire get after the director of Brazilian telegraphs with a sharp stick, it might be well to wait a bit.

On the 27th a stevedore was murdered in the Rua da Saude by a man who had been discharged from his employ. The villain was captured red-handed and in confessing the crime said, the slab was intended for another party. There is no capital punishment in Brazil.

Mr. Charles W. Browne, a student of medicine and assistant to Dr. Freire, has called attention to the claimed success of hypodermic injections of the *microbe* of yellow fever as a protection against this disease. Mr. Browne states that 1,100 persons were treated with success; that the injection of the cultivated germ was attended with the symptoms of yellow fever, head-ache, pains in the members etc, but that these passed off without any necessity of treatment and that the persons are enabled to sleep in apartments where sleights have occurred from the disease without danger. As a purely scientific question we do not consider ourselves called upon for more, than to call the attention of medical practitioners to the matter, as it is expressed in a communication from Dr. Freire published in another column.

DIED.

On the 30th ulto, at Ceará, FREDERICK JOSEPH, second son of the late FREDERICK JOSEPH RINGWAY of Liverpool, aged 25 years.

In our issue for the latter months of 1883 we touched upon the financial condition of Brazil, and attempted to eliminate the causes of the apparently nervous feeling that was growing in the minds of those investors contributing to the support and furtherance of English enterprise in that part of South America. *Inter alia* full publicity was given in our columns to a law—number 3,229—published in the Southern Chambers on 3rd September last. This law summarily refused the transit through the Custom House free of duty of those goods imported for the use of gas-works, railways and similar British industries, which, by virtue of special contracts with the Imperial Government of Brazil, are exempt from imposts of this nature. Our continued references and remarks on this unjust proceeding were largely quoted in the Brazilian papers, and the matter having been thus ventilated may have induced the lawyers to reconsider their enactment. In any case, we have the pleasure to announce that, by a circular dated 22nd January, this high-handed law was *pronygated until further notice*. Little doubt could have been in any mind that a proceeding which simply amounted to implication of contract would not be permitted to rest; and we gladly give publicity to the revocation of this law, while wondering what reasons could have originated it. We trust there will not be a recurrence of any such unwise attempt to swell a revenue in a country like Brazil, which, from its position and resources, should not imperil its credit by such short-sighted devices.—*Bullionist*, Mar. 7th.

COMMERCIAL

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 4th, 1884.

Par value of the Brazilian mil reis (1\$000), gold 37 d
do do do in U. S. S.
coin at \$4, \$4 per £1 sig. 54 45 cents.

do \$1 00 (U. S. coin) Brazilian gold 1\$03
do £1 sig in Brazilian gold 8 88

Bank rate of exchange on London today 1856 d.

Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (paper) 690 15 gold

do do do in U. S. S.

coin at \$4 80 per £1 sig. 37 28 cents

Value of \$1 00 (U. S. coin) Brazilian gold 1\$03

currency (paper) 2 68

Value of £1 sterling 127 886

EXCHANGE.

March 24.—The market opened at yesterday's rates, viz: 183% on London, 510 on Paris, 630 on Hamburg at 90 dgs; on New York at 87 2/3. Commercial sterling was quoted at 18 1/2—18 3/4—18 1/2 commercial sterling. Sovereign sold at 12\$870, closing with buyers at 12\$880, sellers at 12\$870.

March 25.—The English banks were drivers on head offices, only, at 18 1/2 and the Banco Commercial over the counter at the same rate. In the afternoon the English banks reduced their rates to 18 1/2. The business done was small as 18 1/2—18 3/4 bank and 18 1/2—18 3/4 commercial sterling. Sovereign sold at 12\$870, closing with buyers at 12\$860.

March 26.—Holiday.

March 26.—The rates were 18 1/2 on London, 510 on Paris, 630 on Hamburg at 90 dgs; on New York at 87 2/3. There was very little doing, the market closing firm. Commercial sterling was quoted at 18 1/2—18 3/4—18 1/2 commercial sterling. Sovereigns closed with buyers at 12\$860, sellers at 12\$850.

March 27.—The English banks opened at yesterday's rates, but the Banco Commercial posted 18 1/2—18 3/4 on London, 510 on Paris, 630—632 on Hamburg at 90 dgs; sight on New York at 87 2/3. The business done was considerable at 18 1/2 on head office and 18 3/4 on bankers for bank and 18 1/2—18 3/4—18 1/2—18 3/4 for commercial sterling. Sovereigns closed with buyers at 12\$870, sellers at 12\$860.

March 28.—The Banco Commercial drew over the counter at 18 1/2 for a short time, but the posted rates were 18 1/2 on London, 510 on Paris, 630—632 on Hamburg at 90 dgs; sight on New York at 87 2/3. The business done was considerable at 18 1/2 on head office and 18 3/4 on bankers for bank and 18 1/2—18 3/4—18 1/2—18 3/4 for commercial sterling. Sovereigns closed with buyers at 12\$870, sellers at 12\$860.

March 29.—Market opened at Saturday's rates but these were almost immediately withdrawn and the following posted: 18 1/2 on London, 510—514 on Paris and 630—636 on Hamburg at 90 dgs and 23 7/8 on New York at sight. There was a fair amount of business doing at 18 1/2—18 3/4 for bank and 18 1/2—18 3/4 for commercial sterling; something was also done in commercial marks at 633. The English banks were drivers on head offices, only, at 18 1/2. Sovereigns closed with buyers at 12\$870, sellers at 12\$860.

April 1.—Market firm at unchanged posted rates, but bills on head office were obtainable at 18 1/2. Not much doing and commercial sterling quoted at the extremes of 18 1/2—18 3/4. In francs something was done at 51 for bank and 506 for commercial. Sovereigns sold at 12\$850—860—870, closing with buyers at 12\$860, sellers at 12\$850.

April 4.—The English Bank draws at 18 1/2 and the New London and Brasília at 18 1/2. Very little doing.

The March receipts at the Rio custom house were:

Imports	2,659,728 460
Port dues	11,836 400
Exportation	538,704 875
Similares	1,166 977
	3,204,380 735
Deposits	23,881 207
Resumptions	30,684 877
Interest Revenue receipts	537,694 012

The *Diário Oficial* of March 27th gives the report of the Committee of the Council of State on certain supplementary credits. For interest on Treasury Bills issued in anticipation of the budget fixed the sum of 90,000\$. This amount, doubtless, was sufficient to meet the interest on Treasury Bills which the government was authorized to emit during the fiscal year, which could not exceed 16,000,000\$. But, as is known, there were circulation bills to the amount of 46,000\$, issued in former fiscal years, and on which 1 1/2 to 5% per cent. interest was payable, which it was impossible to pay off with the revenue of those fiscal years. The payment of interest on these has always been made under clause 26. Therefore the expenditure under this clause reached in 1883-84, 2,530,000\$ and the law diminishing 2,600,000\$, an increase of 1,070,000\$ becomes necessary. For commissions and brokerage the budget gave 6000\$. Formerly this expense was included in others (*ex fisco e englobamento*) but Law No. 3,141 separated them and fixed it at 60,000\$. In the first fiscal year under this law (1883-84) the payments on account of this clause reached 130,658\$665, an excess of 70,658\$666. The second fiscal year (1883-84) to which the present report relates, the expenses were 118,998\$303 and the credit being 60,000\$ there is a debit of 58,998\$302. In the fiscal year 1883-84 the interest on the loan from the orphans' fund, which the Law No. 3,017 of 5th Nov. 1880 fixed at 60,000\$, was reduced to 458,589\$872, caused by considerable withdrawals of money to be employed in *apólices* by order of the judges of the Orphans' Court and relatively smaller deposits, which occasioned a reduction in the credit to 45,000\$. As these causes were accidental and did not appear in other fiscal years, for 1882-83 the amount rose to 732,838\$459, which left a deficit of 252,838\$459 and it being estimated that in 1883-84 the amount will be 500,000\$139 leaving a deficit of 207,839\$139, a credit of 207,839\$139 becomes necessary. From the data given it is necessary therefore that a supplementary credit of 1,690,192\$811 be opened to meet these charges.

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